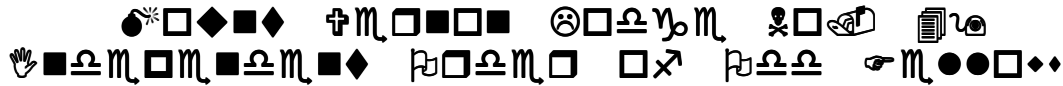


**A BRIEF HISTORY OF
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
IN MT. VERNON, INDIANA**



Our Motto: “Friendship, Love and Truth”

Our Object: To Improve and Elevate the Character of Man

Our Creed: Genuine FRIENDSHIP, which heareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, is the first step toward progress and personal enrichment, and the source of Temperance, Prudence and Justice.

Unfettered LOVE is the basis for all life’s ambitions — the controlling passion of service to humanity — more powerful than the atom — more potent than any finite force;

Inflexible TRUTH, the imperial virtue, begets economic stability, equality under law, freedom of enterprise, the highest of ethical standards, and lasting peace, the ultimate goal of fraternity;

Universal BROTHERHOOD of MAN under the FATHERHOOD of GOD is imperative to the survival of the world, and can be accomplished only through the catalysis of fellowship — inculcating the cohesion which stems from understanding and amity among peoples, states and nations.

Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 49, Independent Order of Odd Fellows [I.O.O.F.], is the last of several Odd Fellows Lodges that were established in Posey County. Mt. Vernon Lodge was chartered February 21, 1848, making it the oldest Fraternal Order in Posey County that is still meeting in Mt. Vernon. The lodge celebrated their 164th anniversary in February 2012.

The I.O.O.F. has had several homes in the history of Mt. Vernon. The largest was the old Peoples Bank at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets; the Lodge was on the top floor. There they stayed many years until the building was sold and a new lodge was built in 1971, next to the West Elementary School on Fourth Street. Due to the decline of membership and the financial cost of maintaining a building, the lodge was sold in 2012.

Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 49, I.O.O.F. desirous to remain a presence in Mt. Vernon and not close their doors, made arrangements to meet in the building next to their old lodge. They now meet on the third Monday of each month in the Beulah Masonic Lodge Building. For more information you can contact David Belcher (812) 985-5398.